

HOYT AND POPE.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN DEFENCE.

Dr. Sampson Pope's Charge Against its Action... The following correspondence between Col. James A. Hoyt, chairman of the Democratic State Executive Committee, and Dr. Sampson Pope, of Newberry, S. C., explains itself: GREENVILLE, S. C., July 7, 1890. Dear Sir:—In the proceedings of the Democratic County Convention of Newberry County, I find the following statement in your preamble and resolutions introduced by you: "Said Executive Committee did meet, and by a vote of thirteen to one did re-choose a State primary."

misrepresented your committee. You are at liberty to publish this correspondence from beginning to end and the letter of Mr. Gonzales, published in the News and Courier of May 10th with it, but it must be all published. Very respectfully, SAMPSON POPE.

GREENVILLE, S. C., July 17, 1890. Dear Sir:—I am just in receipt of your favor of the 10th inst. I regret that you did not see proper to inform yourself as to the facts before introducing the resolutions into the County Convention. You seem unfortunate also in not being able to procure a copy of the News and Courier of May 10th, as that seems to be your authority for making the positive statement to which your attention has been called, namely, that the State Executive Committee by a vote of thirteen to one refused to order a State primary. In order that you may learn, at this late day, what N. G. G. said in his correspondence on the 10th of May, I will quote the paragraph in full: "The members of the Democratic State Committee left for their homes today. While they have taken no official action in the matter, and have endeavored to make no discrimination in favor of either the Tillmans or the Anti-Tillmans, it is an open secret that the members of the committee regard the Tillman movement, as organized and pressed, a serious menace to the solidity of the Democratic party, and that none of the fourteen who gathered here last night are supporters of Tillman, except Mr. Gary, of Abbeville."

I do not know the source from which Mr. Gonzales received the information and which was evidently obtained after the members had left the city, but I do not doubt the correctness of his statement. Yet what is the relevancy between his statement and the declaration you made, deliberately and without qualification, that the State Executive Committee had refused by a vote of thirteen to one to order a State primary? You are obliged to admit that there is no connection whatever between the statement of Mr. Gonzales and the declaration contained in your resolutions. Because thirteen out of fourteen were opposed to Mr. Tillman, as a matter of fact, is no justification whatever for an absolute declaration that is utterly groundless and without the shadow of foundation. The thirteen members who are thus misrepresented by you have just as much right to oppose Mr. Tillman as you have to support him, and you are equally as free to do so as he is to do so. It is not your duty to distort the facts, and to do so is one of the very ugliest features of this campaign. I repeat again that no such action was taken on the question of a primary election on the 8th of May, or anything akin to it, and the statement contained in your resolutions is entirely baseless and gratuitous. Therefore, you had no right to infer from the correspondence of N. G. G. that a vote on calling a convention for the 13th and 14th of May was taken, and that there could be no denial of a thing which never existed, and it is plain enough that your authority disproves your own assertion. The only vote by yeas and nays on that occasion was upon the date for holding the nominating Convention. Some favored September 3rd and others September 10th, which was offered as a substitute, and the vote was upon a motion to lay on the table—yeas 8 and nays 8. The substitute (September 10th) was then adopted. I am not writing at random, but with an exact copy of the minutes before me, nor am I taking so much pains to correct your egregious error on account of any personal reasons, but because you succeeded in getting the endorsement of the Newberry Democratic Convention, thereby giving the declaration an importance in this otherwise hopeless contest. I cannot close without giving a moment to the extraordinary query contained in your last favor, wherein you say: "Is it not possible, then, that an outside agreement was had on the question, and decided so as to avoid the question coming up in the meeting?" The members of the State Executive Committee have always shown the courage and manliness to act openly and in accordance with their convictions, and the insinuation that a physician is only another injustice added to the injury already done. There is not the slightest shadow or pretext for this violent supposition on your part, which is in keeping with the spirit of your resolutions. I will furnish this correspondence to the newspapers, so that the public may judge as to your course in this matter. Respectfully, JAMES A. HOYT, Chairman State Dem. Ex. Com.

NEWBERRY, S. C., July 16, 1890. Dear Sir:—Your letter of the 14th was received, and in reply I have this to say: Mr. Gonzales obtained information from some member of your committee upon which he based his letters of the 10th and 11th of May to the News and Courier. I have been unable to get a copy of that of the 10th, the one of the 11th being short on account of the lateness of the hour of adjournment of your committee. He stated, if I recollect correctly, that the question of a primary was acted on, and further stated that the committee stood 13 against Tillman to 1 for him. If I recollect properly this last statement was entirely untrue in figures. Your committee met again on the 25th of June. Our convention met on the 28th of June. During all of this time that elapsed between May 8th and June 25th no correction of Mr. G.'s statement was made by your committee, nor was any action taken upon it at your meeting of June 25th. You allowed it to stand that 13 of the 14 members present were against Mr. Tillman, and it was only after the publication of our proceedings had on the 28th of June that we hear of any denial. We had a right to infer from that statement that a vote on calling a convention for primary had been taken, and that it stood 13 against and 1 for. You say that no vote was taken on the primary. Is it not possible, then, that an outside agreement was had on the question, and decided so as to avoid the question coming up in the meeting? If you will give me the names of one or more of the primary voters or invitation for the meeting on the 8th of May, I will cheerfully correct to that extent. You go so far in your first letter to me as to say, "the Executive Committee has never voted upon the question of a primary at all," and that, too, after he had called a convention for that purpose to meet on August 13th. I am not a member of your committee, and do not of course know how you decide matters coming before you, but I do know you decided to call and did call a convention to meet on August 13th to take into consideration a primary. These are not days for quibbling or hair-splitting. I am willing that the public shall decide whether or not I have

THE SOLDIER WAS A FATHER.

A Romantic and Thrilling Story of the Civil War—How a Letter From Home Caused a Desertion.

(From the Baltimore Sun.) NEW YORK, July 23.—There was buried at Greenwood yesterday a man with a curious history. He had been a Confederate soldier, as brave as any of his comrades, but he deserted his army during the war and was tried by court-martial for doing so. Edward Cooper was his name. For the past year he has been living at No. 355 Fourth avenue. One bleak December morning in 1862 he was before a court-martial of the Army of Northern Virginia. The prisoner was told to introduce his witnesses. He replied, "I have no witnesses." Astonished at the calmness with which he seemed to be submitting to his inevitable fate, Gen. Battle said to him: "Have you no defense? Is it possible that you abandoned your comrades and deserted your colors in the presence of the enemy without reason?" "There was a reason," replied Cooper, "but it will not avail me before a military tribunal. "Perhaps you are mistaken," said the General, "you are charged with the highest crime known to military law, and it is your duty to make known the cause that influenced your actions."

Approaching the president of the court Cooper presented a letter, saying as he did so: "There General, is what it did!" The letter was offered as the prisoner's defence. It was in these words: "Dear Edward: Since your connection with the Confederate army I have been prouder of you than ever before. I would not have you do anything wrong for the world, but before God, Edward, unless you come home we must die! Last night I was aroused by little Eddie crying. I called to him and said: 'What is the matter, Eddie?' He replied: 'Oh, mamma, I am so hungry. And Lucy your darling Lucy. She never comes near me and she grows thinner and thinner every day. Before God, Edward unless you come home we must die.' Turning to the prisoner, General Battle asked: "What did you do when you received that letter?" Cooper replied: "I made application for a furlough. It was rejected. Again I made application and it was rejected. That night as I wandered about our camp thinking my home the wild eyes of Lucy looking up at me and the burning words of Mary sinking in my brain I was no longer against the Confederate soldier, but I was the father of Lucy and the husband of Mary. "If every gun in the battery had been fired upon me I would have passed those lines. When I reached home Mary flung her arms around my neck and sobbed: 'Oh, my Edward! I am so glad you got your furlough.' She must have felt me shudder, for she turned as pale as death, and catching her breath she came to me and said: 'Have you ever without your furlough? Go back! Ed, go back! Let me and the children go down to the grave, but for Heaven's sake, save the honor of our name!'"

There was not an officer on that court-martial who did not feel the force of the prisoner's words, but each in turn pronounced the verdict guilty. The proceedings of the court were reviewed by General Lee, and upon the record was written: "Headquarters A. N. V.—The finding of the court is approved. The prisoner is pardoned and will report to his company. "R. E. Lee, General."

A NEGROES SHOCKING CRIME.

His Wife Burned to Death—The Evidence Points to Slow Torture at the Hands of Her Husband and a Female Paramour—His Suicide.

One of the most horrible crimes on record is reported from Colleton county. The crime was committed on Mary's island, an unfrequented spot in the county mentioned. Poody Grant lived there with his wife, Phoebe. Another woman, supposed to be too intimate with Grant, frequently visited his wife. On Wednesday last Grant mounted his mule and proceeded to the relations of his wife. He told them that Phoebe had been severely hurt the week before by an explosion of a kerosene lamp and was in a bad condition. The relatives found her burnt from her knees up, in front only, terribly charred and speechless. She died when an attempt was made to remove her. During the whole week the other woman passed backward and forward between the place she lived and Mary's island, and said nothing of the accident, nor did Poody, until the unfortunate woman could not speak. No traces of oil could be found on the floor, no traces of burning below the knees of the woman. These, and the contradictory statements, caused the arrest of Poody, but he escaped from his guards. It is supposed that the poor wretch was deliberately saturated with kerosene and set on fire by her husband and his accomplice. But the tale is not yet told. Poody having been run to earth after his escape, requested permission to return to his room for a short while. Almost immediately the report was heard, and it was found that he had placed the muzzle of his musket against his stomach, exploded it by some means, blowing a hole clear through himself, thus proving almost conclusively his guilt. His female accomplice is in hiding, but when captured will meet the severest punishment.

Killed by a Crow Bar.

UNION, S. C., July 18.—A Mr. Cox, superintendent of Messrs. Jones & Co.'s works on the Georgia, Carolina & Northern railroad, was killed Wednesday evening, near Fish Dam in this county. He was sitting down while some negroes were at work building an arch and while some very heavy rocks were being moved a crow bar slipped and struck him on the head. He died almost instantly. He is said to have been very wealthy.

WHITES AND BLACKS.

Effect of the Lodge Bill.—The Measure, if Enacted and Enforced, Will Cause Trouble in the South.

NEW YORK, July 24.—When asked for his views of the probable effect of the passage of the Lodge bill, General Roger A. Pryor said: "My opinion is that the enforcement of the bill, if enacted, will inevitably provoke collisions of violence in the Southern States, and consequently capital will be withdrawn from the South, or at all events it will no longer be sent thither. Relations between the races in the South are at present perfectly pacific and satisfactory to both, but any attempt of the federal government to interfere with the negro franchise in the South and so to disturb the equilibrium of the races will provoke resentment and inflame passions inconsistent with public order and tranquility. No man, whatever his political opinions, can travel in the South without being favorably impressed by the contentment and prosperity pervading colored communities. "It is to the peace relations between the races in the South that the Federal intervention, in industrial development, is the present extraordinary progress is attributable. To set the two classes in hostility, as this bill would, would infallibly arrest the course of Southern prosperity. It is a notable fact that collisions between the races in the South have invariably and exclusively been caused by political controversies. On every other subject the harmony between the races is complete. At times there is friction in the political contests of the South to expatriate one race against the other. But this bill will undoubtedly array the factions in implacable antagonism. It may as well be understood, once for all, that the whites of the South do not intend that the blacks shall acquire the ascendancy, and in so far as this bill tends to the accomplishment of that ascendancy it will challenge resistance. If the whites are left free from Federal intervention, they will work out their pacific and in earnest co-operation, not only to the benefit of the South, but to the welfare of the entire country. It is lamentable at this juncture, when everything is so quiet and prosperous in the South, that a measure should be introduced which cannot but result in discord and disaster."

Hon. J. Simms, president of the Fourth National Bank, took a dissenting view. He thought the South would acquiesce in the operation of the bill if it was made a law. "The ante-bellum days," he said, "are not the days we live in. The South is law-abiding; so that while there may be some resentment it will not occasion any serious disturbances. I don't believe in the bill. I am not apprehensive of any violence on the part of the South in case it should be enforced. Of course millions and millions of Northern money have gone South for investment in the last few years, and that very connection will be an influence tending to control any outbreak that would endanger the enterprises that Northern capital has built up."

THE STATE ALLIANCE.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL SESSION AT GREENVILLE.

The Annual Address Shows the Order to be in a Flourishing Condition—A Plan for a Mutual Fire and Life Insurance Company to be Discussed.—THE RECTOR OF GREENVILLE, July 23.—The South Carolina State Farmers' Alliance met here to-day—most every county being represented. The morning session was devoted chiefly to organization. The annual address of President Stackhouse showed the membership to have increased to 17,500 in the last two years. There are 1,052 sub-alliances in the State. Colonel F. F. Polk, President of the National Farmers' Alliance, addressed the alliance in the morning, and tonight delivered a public address in the open house to a large audience. The most important action was the appointment of a committee to consider plans for a mutual fire and life insurance company to be operated by the Alliance. Dr. J. William Stokes, of Orangeburg, editor of the Cotton Plant, was elected president by acclamation together with all the old officers. Spartanburg was selected as the next place of meeting and following delegates were elected to the National Alliance: J. William Stokes, W. J. Talbert, A. C. Letimer and Dr. Eugene Jamison.

GREENVILLE, July 24.—The Farmers' Alliance of South Carolina met in the Opera House at 9 o'clock this morning. The proceedings during the day were largely devoted to discussions on various topics. The committee which was appointed to prepare the reports to be given out to the press gave out the following: The committee on legislative demands made a number of recommendations in line with the demands of the National Alliance. The importance of pushing these demands was set forth, and it was urged that no candidate be supported who is not in full sympathy with the demands made. The Secretaries of the State and County Alliances were forbidden from hereafter giving out full directory of the County and sub-Alliance officers except by permission of the president and chairman of the executive committee. An appeal was made to the Alliance members in the North and Northwest to unite with the South Carolina Alliance in condemning the Lodge bill, and requesting them to come to our aid in preventing the passage of said bill, the intent and effect of which, we believe, will be to benefit one class of citizens, but will serve to break the force of our united brotherhood in our demand for financial reform. Several amendments to the constitution were adopted. The sub-treasury bill was endorsed, and it is the sense of the body that no candidate for Congress should receive our support unless he favors that measure. The Alliance was positive in its opposition to national banks, and demanded the removal of all taxes on all State banks. Sub and County Alliances were enjoined to take more active interest in the schools of the country. The President urged upon the County and sub-Alliances the importance of having their individual seal. The secretaries of sub-Alliances are urged to press the claims of papers that have pressed and will press the demands of our order.

BRETHREN OF THE STATE ALLIANCE.

In turning over to you the high trust which I have endeavored to execute for you during the two years since your organization, I congratulate you on the growth of the order within the State, on the good your organization has already accomplished and on the open prospect for future accomplishment. The report of your State organizer shows that the organization has not only been extended to every county in the State, but your treasury reports that we now have 1,052 sub-Alliances in the State, an increase of 298 since your last meeting, and an increase of 17,500 members during the year now closing. The improved business methods introduced by the order have saved hundreds of thousands of dollars to the farmers of the State, but important as is this money saving to the farmers of the State, the gain in information and manhood is vastly more important. The Alliance has not only demonstrated the practical benefits of unity, but that it has stimulated and given direction to individual efforts, in the testimony of observers, farmers of the State are more cheerful and hopeful than they have been for many years, and it will not be denied by those who have observed and studied the farmer's condition, that it is mainly due to the beneficent teaching and operations of your noble organization. GUIDED BY NOBLE PURPOSES. In looking to and arranging for future operations, we must be guided by the same declaration of noble purpose that has enabled us to start so well. They are founded on truth and equity, and they are simple and guided by them. The safety and success of our organization is dependent on our fidelity and devotion to these noble purposes. ECONOMIC EDUCATION. The first declaration of purpose by our order shows that it looked to the education of the "agricultural class" that they might be prepared to grapple with organized and entrenched monopoly. I respectfully recommend a careful study of this entire first declaration of purpose to the brotherhood in South Carolina. The education of the "agricultural class" is the most important work of the Alliance, not only in South Carolina, but in every State of this great nation. I recommend that you consider carefully the best methods for the accomplishment of this great educational work. Monopoly—intrenched monopoly,

THE STATE ALLIANCE.

with its mighty influence and power—must be met and defeated. This is a task worthy of the supreme efforts of the toiling masses of the people of the United States. It is no institutions and enlightened Christian government. The toiling masses of the people of this great nation are arming themselves for the accomplishment of this task. The agricultural States of this Union are uniting for the accomplishment of this grand task. The great Northwest and the Cotton States will stand together in the coming battle with the powers of monopoly. The assaults of the first skirmish will be recorded in the annals of the National elections for 1890. But the monster—Monopoly—is too firmly established for to be defeated in a skirmish. It will require the great battle of 1892 to decide whether the people or whether monopoly shall rule this great nation.

POLITICAL DANGER.

The charge of our opponents that we have abandoned agriculture and gone into politics is sufficiently answered by the statistical fact of increased area and superior condition of the growing crops. Whence this we must ever remember that our politics are not to be "strictly non-partisan." Any departure from the rule will be fatal to the success of the reforms sought. The Alliance is in no sense a political party, nor does it look to the destruction of either of the great political parties, but it is a "strictly non-partisan" organization for the defence and protection of the "agricultural classes" against legalized spoliation, and will work for no change of administration to present its demands. The national demands formulated by the Supreme Council at St. Louis have been considered and passed upon by the Sub and County Alliances. I recommend that these demands with the action taken thereon by Sub and County Alliances be referred to a special committee on legislative demands and that all matters in reference to legislation, State or national, be referred to this committee. The great consolidation effected at St. Louis since your last meeting, and the unprecedented growth of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union inspires the hope that the demands of that grand organization, will—at no distant day—receive respectful consideration by the Congress of the United States.

THE AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE.

I congratulate the farming and industrial classes of the State on the fact, that since your last meeting, the State has made provision for the establishment of an Agricultural and Mechanical College at Fort Hill, and that the work of construction is now progressing. The report of your Executive Committee shows good and safe financial management. They have enabled your State organizer, State lecturer and State president to meet, to the extent of their ability to do so, all demands made for their services. I recommend that the committee and wise arrangement in reference to the work of the State lecturer, and that he be required to give his whole time to the work under their direction should it be demanded. And I suggest further, now that the work of organization is so nearly completed, that the committee impose the work of State organizer on the State lecturer.

CONSTITUTION.

The State Secretary, who has made your State's constitution a study, has, by request, prepared for you a revised constitution, with the purpose to make it more systematic in arrangement, less doubtful of interpretation, and easier of reference. I recommend that you take such action as will best secure a careful consideration of this new or revised constitution. ALLIANCE EXCHANGE. The plan adopted at your last meeting for the establishment of an "Alliance Exchange" has been carried into active and successful operation. This report, submitted to explain as information, will sufficiently explain its operations. Its continued success is directly dependent on the patronage of the Alliance brotherhood of the State. When the business world comes to understand that it has "come to stay," that the Alliance people of the State will support it to the extent of their ability, it will surely prove a grand success and benefit the Alliance membership beyond their most sanguine expectations. YOUR ORGANS. The Cotton Plant, your State organ, is worthy of and should receive the support of the brotherhood throughout the State. It should make its weekly visits to every Alliance home in the State. The fact that most of the State press is opposed to the demands of the Alliance makes it imperative that our people should read our State and national organs. The National Economist, your national organ, is combating with commendable fairness and great ability the evils and dangers of monopoly. I recommend that the brotherhood of South Carolina give it liberal patronage. SALARIES. I respectfully suggest the propriety and justice of increasing the salaries of your President and Secretary, as the salaries, as now fixed by your constitution, are not fair compensation for the services rendered by those officers. I trust you will remain in session long enough to give careful consideration to all matters of interest to the order in this State. In conclusion, I want to say that the effort to serve you has been, to me, a labor of love. I have brought to the discharge of the duties imposed, my best efforts for the well being of the order. I have been conscious of my inability to measure up to the responsibilities imposed upon me. I invoke your indulgence to the deficiencies and errors in my official administration. I want to record my

FROM AFFLUENCE TO POVERTY.

The Widow of Millionaire Alden Asking Aid of Her Former Colored Servant.

NORWALK, July 22.—Mrs. Caroline Miller, colored, of Westport, well known in that little village of her honesty and thrift, received from Manahasset, L. I., one day this week, a letter from Mrs. Georgiana Alden, the contents of which show to what depths of poverty those in opulence may fall. The writer is the widow of the late Stephen Alden, who for years was one of the wealthiest men in the country. She is now without money or friends, is suffering from hunger and want of proper shelter, and, reduced to the lowest depths of poverty, begs this poor woman, who was once employed in her household, for aid. So reduced had she become that only three cents were in her purse, and two of them were used to buy the stamp for her letter. Mrs. Miller sent \$2 of her earnings, all she had left from her wages of the week previous. Before doing so, however, she showed the letter to persons who had associated with Mrs. Alden at a time when fortune smiled upon her, thinking that they were better able than herself to answer the appeal. They offered no assistance. One of the parties to whom the letter was shown is the wife of a well-known citizen, who, when the unfortunate lady was shining in society there, borrowed her money, and valued many hundreds of dollars, to wear at an evening reception. Twenty years ago Mrs. Alden's husband was reputed to be worth from three to five millions of dollars. He had previous to that time been president of one of the banks in Albany, and was also a prominent resident and politician of that city. Subsequently he married, removed to New York, and became a broker in the Stock Exchange. By a series of daring manipulations he made the major portion of his great wealth. He spent his summers in Westport, and at an expense of many thousands of dollars erected an elegant mansion, with spacious lawns and parks, and lived in princely style. His home was filled with servants, a small army of workmen kept the house and grounds in the best possible order, and a stable full of thoroughbreds with drivers and footmen, was always ready at a moment's notice. The quiet, easy going citizens of the place were overawed at their neighbor's lavish expenditures. No society was quite complete unless Mr. and Mrs. Alden were present. At length business reverses set in, heavy losses followed, and in a surprisingly short time money and property were swept away to satisfy the claims of creditors. Mr. Alden died under the weight of his obligations, and his ways ready at a moment's notice, started westward. For several years she remained on the Pacific coast, but latterly returned east. She is now poverty stricken and aid is now refused her, even by those who at one time were her warmest friends.

A GREAT FIRE.

Twenty-Six Hundred People Rendered Homeless at Kirin. Meagre details have been received of a great fire at Kirin, which destroyed about \$4,000,000 worth of property and rendered 2,600 families homeless. A correspondent of the North China Daily News writes: "Signals were made about 2 o'clock p. m. on May 13, and as usual, the governor-general left his room for operations in the work of extinguishing, etc. The soldiers carried some tea, engines, but no one seemed to anticipate anything very serious. I saw that the governor-general's room would soon be in danger, so I proceeded as quickly as possible to save all the property that could be got at, and having secured a large junk at the river bank, I had all my things carried to it from my house before the latter caught fire. The raven started in a large square, with streets on all sides. All the houses caught fire and some 60,000 cartridges for Martini-Henry rifles exploded. The noise was like half a dozen regiments firing volleys in quick time. The servants had to be dragged into the house to carry out the packages. They had no sense left. The cook prayed that I might fly, with such things as they could pick up in a few minutes. The square was crowded with people also were burned, and the only safety was in the water itself. My junk crossed to the other side of the river, where I remained during the night. By 8 o'clock p. m. the conflagration extended for more than a mile along the bank. All the large stores of timber were consumed, the flames shooting up hundreds of feet—a sight never to be forgotten. Fortunately the wind lessened, and the fire was nearly extinguished during the night, but it smoldered in places for days, and only gave way entirely to a heavy down pour of rain, which occurred May 20. The sufferers are chiefly well-to-do people, and the loss supposed to be more than 2,500,000,000 taels. Some ten lives were sacrificed. The exact estimate of the loss is difficult to get, but some 2,600 families were made homeless, and the misery is more easily imagined than described."

Preparing to Kidnap Burke.

The Louisiana Legislature at its session recently closed appropriated \$15,000 as a reward for the capture of ex-State Treasurer Burke, now engaged in mining in Honduras. A gentleman lately arrived from there says a number of detectives have gone to Honduras recently, presumably with the intention of kidnapping Major Burke and returning him to Louisiana in the hope of securing the reward offered by the State. Major Burke is aware of their mission, and seems to be very much worried and nervous. The ex-treasurer is very popular with the people of Honduras, and his mining operations seem to be fairly successful. He is said to be suffering from a very severe case of catarrh, and has had an operation performed for his relief. His health otherwise is good.

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Twenty-Six Hundred People Rendered Homeless at Kirin. Meagre details have been received of a great fire at Kirin, which destroyed about \$4,000,000 worth of property and rendered 2,600 families homeless. A correspondent of the North China Daily News writes: "Signals were made about 2 o'clock p. m. on May 13, and as usual, the governor-general left his room for operations in the work of extinguishing, etc. The soldiers carried some tea, engines, but no one seemed to anticipate anything very serious. I saw that the governor-general's room would soon be in danger, so I proceeded as quickly as possible to save all the property that could be got at, and having secured a large junk at the river bank, I had all my things carried to it from my house before the latter caught fire. The raven started in a large square, with streets on all sides. All the houses caught fire and some 60,000 cartridges for Martini-Henry rifles exploded. The noise was like half a dozen regiments firing volleys in quick time. The servants had to be dragged into the house to carry out the packages. They had no sense left. The cook prayed that I might fly, with such things as they could pick up in a few minutes. The square was crowded with people also were burned, and the only safety was in the water itself. My junk crossed to the other side of the river, where I remained during the night. By 8 o'clock p. m. the conflagration extended for more than a mile along the bank. All the large stores of timber were consumed, the flames shooting up hundreds of feet—a sight never to be forgotten. Fortunately the wind lessened, and the fire was nearly extinguished during the night, but it smoldered in places for days, and only gave way entirely to a heavy down pour of rain, which occurred May 20. The sufferers are chiefly well-to-do people, and the loss supposed to be more than 2,500,000,000 taels. Some ten lives were sacrificed. The exact estimate of the loss is difficult to get, but some 2,600 families were made homeless, and the misery is more easily imagined than described."

Preparing to Kidnap Burke.

The Louisiana Legislature at its session recently closed appropriated \$15,000 as a reward for the capture of ex-State Treasurer Burke, now engaged in mining in Honduras. A gentleman lately arrived from there says a number of detectives have gone to Honduras recently, presumably with the intention of kidnapping Major Burke and returning him to Louisiana in the hope of securing the reward offered by the State. Major Burke is aware of their mission, and seems to be very much worried and nervous. The ex-treasurer is very popular with the people of Honduras, and his mining operations seem to be fairly successful. He is said to be suffering from a very severe case of catarrh, and has had an operation performed for his relief. His health otherwise is good.